

IFAS EXTENSION

Family Resource Program Helping Families in Need

The Santa Rosa Family Resource Program, Inc., a not-for-profit agency, has been serving the unmet needs of families in Santa Rosa Co. since 1981. The agency offers emergency short term financial assistance to families with children birth to 18 years. Short term assistance includes food, infant formula, diapers, cleaning supplies, utility payments, rent and school supplies etc. In collaboration with community partners, they refer families to other agencies for assistance. Other services offered by the agency include parent education, homeless assistance and holiday assistance. Last year they serviced over 950 families with 2,062 children.

The agency has seen a dramatic increase this year in the number of families requesting assistance due to the two hurricanes. According to Sue Bollinger, Coordinator for Family Resource Program, it has been difficult to keep goods on the shelves due to increased volume of requests.

The Family Resource Board is asking the community to help meet the needs of these families. We need non-perisible food, especially ready-to-eat canned goods such as tuna and beef stew, diapers, baby clothes, infant formula, cleaning supplies, personal hygiene items, and bed linens. Cash donations are also accepted. All donations are tax-deductible. If you, your volunteer organization or church would like to help the families, please contact Sue Bollinger at 626-2054 or visit the office housed in "The Family Place on the Square" at 6576 Caroline St.(next to Family Dollar behind Church's Chicken) in Milton.